



MRC Members

Glen Alexander ("Alex")
Citizen-at-Large
Term 2: 01/21/2027

Rick Beauregard (NWSC rep)
Scientific
Term 1: 01/31/2027

Jackie Dexter
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2027

Mark Fairhart
Citizen-at-large
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Kaylee Galloway
Designated, County Council

Alexi Guddal
Conservation/Environmental
Partial: 01/31/2026

Joe Hoats
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Kathy Ketteridge (Vice-Chair)
Citizen-at-Large
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Elizabeth Lorence
Conservation/Environmental
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Mike MacKay (NWSC alt rep)
Scientific
Term 2: 01/31/2028

Paul Meyer
Conservation/Environmental
Term 1: 01/31/2029

Andrew Shelton
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Mary Lou Steward
City of Blaine, Mayor

Colin Wahl
Scientific
Term 2: 01/31/2029

Vacancies

Recreational Interest (2)
Nooksack Tribe Representative
Lummi Nation Representative

WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY | October 2, 2025 5:00pm – 7:00pm | Virtual ZOOM [LINK](#), Meeting ID: 829 8756 4534 | Passcode 868735 1-253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)

We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe.

Time	Agenda Item	Lead	Action Y/N
1.	Introductions and Determine Quorum		N
2.	October 2nd Agenda <i>Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.</i>	Mark	Y
3.	Approval of September Meeting Summary <i>Review and approve summary as final.</i>		
4.	Community Updates <i>Community members attending the meeting who wish to address or update the Committee on MRC related matters will be provided up to five (5) minutes to speak.</i>		
5.	European Green Crab (EGC): Todd Hass, Puget Sound Partnership <i>Discussion regarding the transition of EGC coordination and collaboration of trapping efforts.</i>	Todd	N
7. <u>6.</u>	Mud Bay Cliffs Continued Discussion <i>Determine how the MRC will proceed with comment</i>	Mark	Y
8. <u>7.</u>	MRC Conference <i>Prepare for conference session "Reaching your MRC's Full Potential"</i>	Austin/ Dana/ Mark	Y
9. <u>8.</u>	MRC Member Updates <i>Discussion: MRC Mission and Tasks</i>	Mark / Kathy	
10 <u>9.</u>	MRC Project Updates: - Forage Fish – Training opportunity on October 8th - Chuckanut PIC	Dana	
11 <u>10</u>	MRC Partner Committee Updates: - County Council - Port of Bellingham - City of Blaine - Northwest Straits Commission	Kaylee Kurt Mary Lou Rick	
12 <u>11</u>	Adjourn		

Board member attendance: Mark Fairhart (MRC Chair), Austin Rose (staff), Dana Daniels (staff), Rick Beauregard, Kathy Ketteridge, Alexi Guddal, Mike MacKay, Kaylee Galloway, Mary Lou Steward, Glen "Alex" Alexander, Kurt Baumgarten

Others: Leah Skare (NWSC), Laura Hanna (WWU), Lucas Hart (NWSC), Todd Hass (PSP), Alan Chapman, Cheryl Lovato Niles (WSU extension), Victoria Miller (GSSC).

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are to contact MRC Staff at least 4 business days in advance.

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1. **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Mark Fairhart, debuting as MRC Chair, began the meeting with the land acknowledgement and roundtable introductions. There was no quorum present.
2. **October 2nd Agenda:** Due to no quorum, agenda and minute approvals were tabled. Mark did a quick agenda overview.
3. **Approval of September Meeting Summary:**
4. **Community Updates:** There were no community updates.
5. **European Green Crab (EGC):** Todd Haas, Special Assistant Director, Puget Sound Partnership, has been a member of the multiagency coordination group that manages or helps advise the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on the European Green crab (EGC) emergency. Five years ago, the Whatcom MRC joined a meeting that put attention on Drayton Harbor as a hotspot for EGC. Several partners, including Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) worked to plan out how to trap effectively and contain the reproduction and spread of EGCs in the North Puget Sound and beyond. With steady funding support from WDFW, the NWSC has been able to maintain a strong trapping presence in Drayton Harbor and coordinated networks of volunteers to get out in those challenging areas, and suppress the number of EGC. A female can lay up to 200,000 eggs, which is a big threat of spread into the water column and beyond into the greater Puget Sound. The NWSC will continue its role until June of 2027. The Puget Sound Partnership is working to secure a thoughtful transition that can ensure the pressure of EGC containment/suppression remains at its maximum, continued communication and collaboration with partners (like the Whatcom MRC). Todd's main goal was to raise the MRC's awareness of this transition.
Lucas Hart (NWSC, Director), assured the group that the NWSC will remain part of the transition and mentioned two questions that need to be addressed:
 - 1 - *How do MRCs want to be engaged, if at all, in European green crab management moving forward?*
 - 2 - *What entities exist that could potentially fill the shoes of the Northwest Straits Commission in more of a regional, broad-scale coordination?*
6. **Mud Bay Cliffs Continued Discussion:** The Protect Mud Bay Cliffs (PMBC) visited the September MRC meeting expressing their concerns about the proposed development around N. Chuckanut bay – particularly the stormwater. The MRC agreed that submitting another comment letter reinforcing their concerns of potential impact to the health of the bay. It was suggested that the MRC invite City of Bellingham staff – those involved with the development proposal – to learn the whole story.
7. **MRC Conference:** Mark shared that he would like the MRC folks going to the conference to be prepared for a breakout session called *Reaching Your MRC's Full Potential*.
8. **MRC Member Updates:** Mark announced that he would like to meet with each member on the MRC to ask, “Why are you on the MRC?”, “What circumstances led you to join this group?”, “Are you satisfied with what the MRC does on annual basis?”. Mark reviewed the MRC's mission/goals/tasks. *Are these goals and tasks still appropriate?* The group was reminded of the strategic planning process in 2023, and it was suggested that the Committee review the outcomes of that on a more regular basis. The Committee will streamline the broad goals listed into smaller, more achievable, actions.
9. **MRC Project Updates:**

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- **Forage Fish:** Colin Wahl is now the project lead. There is a forage fish survey training with WDFW at Padilla Bay on October 8. If interested in attending, connect with Dana and she will be sure you're registered.
- **Chuckanut PIC:** The final Chuckanut water quality sampling occurred in September. The MRC has decided to sunset that project because water quality samples are not showing improvement by the Department of Health standards. The MRC is stepping back to look at other ways to engage with the community to prevent bacteria from going into the bay, and to provide a technical report summarizing the 11 years of sampling and outreach conducted by the MRC.

10. MRC Partner Committee Updates:

- **County Council:** Kaylee provided an update on the budget process and the conditions the County is grappling with. The Executive's budget will be released in the third week of October. The Council is continuing to work through the Comprehensive Plan. The Committee suggested inviting the Climate Action Manager to another MRC meeting to hone in on what would be of interest to the MRC. There is been a lot of discussion around urban growth areas, some of which are proposed along the shoreline.
- **Port of Bellingham:** Construction is almost complete on the Little Squalicum Beach stormwater project. Corroded pipe in front of the Mount Baker Products has been replaced and now drains to a stormwater water treatment vault with cartridges, and then instead draining directly out to the beach, now infiltrates behind the breakwater next to the park. The Port is still moving forward with design permitting for the work in the, Whatcom Creek Estuary between the Roeder and West Holly bridges.
- **City of Blaine:** The financial situation in Whatcom County and the cities in Whatcom County is not great. As a result, Blaine is down a number of employees including, the Director of Public Works, which is currently vacant. Blaine is working on their Comp plan and are planning for 20 years out. A study was completed of the Blaine water treatment facility, which is right on the shoreline, and no leaks were detected. A second study is looking at the outflow for E. coli, and that will be completed the first week of November. A third project, funded through the Department of Health, will look at the infill and outflow and will be completed till the summer of 2026, with the report being available by October 2026. These studies are being conducted to justify opening more acres of shellfish harvest outside of Semiahmoo Spit. The Department of Health will be putting mussel cages in Drayton harbor as part of their Mussel Watch program.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Francis Robertson, PhD, San Juan County, provided an interesting presentation on the number of vessels in San Juan County during the holiday season. It highlighted the pressures that San Juan County is facing with boating, especially in the summer months. Don't forget to register for the Northwest Straits conference.

11. Adjourn

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